Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for identifying aberrant behavior of a financial instrument comprising:

(a) providing a computer;

(b) retrieving from a source of market data, closing price, volume and number of transactions conducted for the financial instrument in a selected trading session~~, wherein the volume and number of transactions are retrieved independently of each other~~;

(c) recording in memory accessible by the computer, the closing price, volume and number of transactions conducted for the financial instrument in the selected trading session;

(d) identifying a plurality of time periods of different sizes, each of said time periods terminating with the trading session of the financial instrument immediately preceding the selected trading session;

(e) obtaining and providing in memory accessible by the computer, the average and standard deviation of the closing price, volume and number of transactions during each of the time periods~~, wherein the averages of the volume and number of transactions are obtained independently of each other, and wherein the standard deviations of the volume and the number of transactions are obtained independently of each other~~;

(f) determining whether the closing price, differs from the average of the corresponding component during each of the time periods by a selected number of standard deviations and for each case in which such a difference is sufficiently large, recording an associated aberrant flag;

(g) determining whether the volume and number of transactions are each greater than the average of the corresponding component during each of the time periods by a selected number of standard deviations and for each case in which such a difference is sufficiently large, recording an associated aberrant flag;

(h) counting the number of aberrant flags; [[and]]

(i) identifying behavior of the financial instrument as aberrant ~~if the number of aberrant flags is greater than zero~~ based on the total number of aberrant flags counted; and

(j) creating a report indicating the aberrancy of the financial instrument.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, ~~further comprising:~~ wherein, prior to creating the report, the method further comprises:

[[(j)]] (k) selecting a threshold value corresponding to an expected total number of aberrant flags;

[[(k)]] (l) calculating the difference between the total number of aberrant flags and the threshold value; and

[[(l)]] (m) recording an overall financial instrument aberrant flag if the magnitude of the difference in step [[(k)]] (i) is sufficiently large.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the threshold value corresponds at least in part to the total number of possible aberrant flags that could be recorded in steps (f) and (g).

Claim 4. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the financial instrument is sold on at least one market, the at least one market has market indexes that are analogous to the closing price, the volume and the number of transactions, and wherein the selected number of standard deviations depends at least in part on standard deviations of the market indexes for the time periods.

Claim 5. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein in step (g), for each time period, an aberrant flag is recorded if both the difference between the

number of transactions for the selected trading session and the average number of transactions is sufficiently large and the number of transactions for the selected trading session is greater than the average numbers of transactions.

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of the parameters is the volume, and wherein in step (g), for each time period, an aberrant flag is recorded if both the differences between the volume for the selected trading session and the average volume is sufficiently large, and the volume for the selected trading session is greater than the average volume.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

(m) calculating an average number of aberrant flags for the financial instrument over a selected number of trading sessions immediately prior to the selected trading session; and

(n) comparing the number of aberrant flags in the selected trading session with the average number of aberrant flags; and

(o) identifying the existence of an overall financial instrument aberration if the comparison in step (n) results in a difference above a threshold value.

Claims 8-20 (Cancelled)

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) A computer implemented method for identifying aberrant behavior of a financial instrument comprising:

(a) providing a computer;

(b) retrieving from a source of market data, the values of a plurality of parameters, the parameters including the number of transactions, the closing price and the volume, for the financial instrument in a selected trading session~~, wherein the volume and number of transactions are retrieved independently of each other~~;

(c) recording in memory accessible by the computer, the values of the parameters;

(d) identifying a plurality of time periods of different sizes, each of said time periods terminating with the trading session of the financial instrument immediately preceding the selected trading session;

(e) obtaining and providing in memory accessible by the computer averages and standard deviations of the parameters for the time periods~~, wherein the averages of the volume and number of transactions are obtained independently of each other, and the standard deviations of the volume and number of transactions are obtained independently of each other~~;

(f) providing in memory accessible by the computer the differences between the values of the parameters during the selected trading session and the average values of the parameters;

(g) selecting a set of expected variations for the values of the parameters during the selected trading session, wherein the expected variations are selected depending on the averages and standard deviations of the parameters over the time periods;

(h) determining whether the differences in closing price exceed the expected variations;

(i) identifying any differences in closing price that exceed the expected variations as being aberrant;

(j) determining whether the volume and number of transactions are greater than the average volume and number of transactions by more than the expected variations;

(k) identifying any cases where the volume is greater than the average volume and number of transactions by more than the expected variations as being aberrant;

(l) identifying any cases where the number of transactions is greater than the average volume and number of transactions by more than the expected variations as being aberrant;

(m) counting the total number of differences that are aberrant;

(n) selecting a threshold value corresponding to an expected total number of differences that are aberrant for the selected trading session;

(o) providing in memory accessible by the computer the difference between the total number of differences that are aberrant for the selected trading session and the threshold value; and

(p) reporting whether an overall financial instrument aberration exists depending on the magnitude of the difference in step (o).